as a measure for rendering better customer service, Banks have been advised by Reserve Bank of India to give, free of interest but subject to collection of service charges, immediate credit to customers for outstation cheques of value upto Rs. 2500/- (one at a time), provided the bank has satisfactory experience in respect of the customer concerned.

Evasion of Income Tax by shopkeepers of wholesale markets

*354. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of mass scale evasion of Income Tax payment by private shopkeepers of wholesale markets in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) whether Government are also aware that 90 per cent trade by these shopkeepers is being done without issuing the bills, thus not showing any sales;

(c) whether at any stage the Income tax authorities have tried to find out as to how persons with smaller incomes become millionaires in few years and by hiding their gains/evading income tax, etc.;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to unearth all such hidden money from these traders; and

(e) what action can be taken under the rules against shopkeepers who sell material without receipts or on Kuccha receipt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (e) Government is aware of general attempts at tax evasion by unscrupulous elements in different sections of business community. Government is fully committed to combat tax evasion in Delhi/New Delhi. On account of the ongoing exercise of searches and surveys, mass scale evasion by any class of tax-payer cannot go undetected. Systematic survey operations and search and seizure operations in appropriate cases and deep scrutiny at the time of assessments are undertaken by the Income-tax Department to detect tax evasion which also serve as deterrent to other tax evaders as well. Income-tax Department assesses the income of a person not only based on the books of accounts maintained by him but also based on other evidences. Under the provisions of section 145 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, where an Income-tax Officer is not satisfied with the correctness or completeness of the accounts of the assessee he can reject it and estimate the income. The accretion to the wealth of a person is monitored by the Income-tax Department through wealth-tax assessments and also by ascertaining the net wealth of a person. This also helps in estimating his income.

Raid by the C.B.I.

*355. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently in the country-wide raid the C.B.I. searched houses of six senior officials of the Railways and 14 of the banks, customs and the Income Tax Department and assets disproportionate to their income were found; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken against the officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. On June 25, 1987, the C.B.I. conducted raids on the residential/office premises of 10 officers of the Railways, 7 of the Banks, 3 of the Income Tax, 9 of the Central Excise & Customs and 8 of Public Sector Undertakings, in connection with the investigation of the cases registered against them.

(b) Details of items both movable immovable found during the raid are given below:—

Movable assets	Rs. 51.40 lakhs
Immovable assets	Rs. 45.57 lakhs

All the cases are under investigation and appropriate action will be taken based on the findings of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Drug addicts in the North Eastern Region

@*356. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased ot state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported well-knit clandestine organisation running in the North-Eastern region in the country turning the youth into drug addicts;

(b) whether Goverment have obtained any report from the North-Eastern States in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) Reports received by the Narcotics Control Bureau do not indicate the existence of any well-knit clandestine organisation running in the North-Eastern region in the country turning the youth into drug addicts. The quantities of drugs seized in this region do not indicate any large-scale smuggling. However, there have been reports of drug-trafficking across the Indo-Burma border and also of increasing drug addiction in certain parts of the region. Senior officials of the Narcotics Control Bureau visited the region and held detailed discussions with senior officials of Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland. The field formations have been alerted to check drug-trafficking in the region. The drug situation and the counter measures to be taken to check the drug-trafficking are kept under constant review for taking appropriate action.

Indebtedness among Government Servants

*357. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever made any assessment regarding the indebtedness among Government servants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to conduct a survey in this regard; if so by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

@Previously Starred Question 276 transferred from the 14th August, 1987.